

Amendments to the Claims:

1- 72. (canceled).

73. (previously presented): An identification document comprising:

a substrate;

a first graphic carried on or in the substrate, the first graphic representing a photographic image or artwork; and

electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises information stored therein,

the first graphic comprising steganographically encoding including a plural-bit first message that is machine-readable from optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of said first graphic, wherein the first message comprises at least a code, and

wherein the code once obtained unlocks the electronic circuitry or the information stored therein.

74. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 73 wherein the substrate comprises multiple layers.

75. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 73 wherein the identification document comprises at least one of a driver's license, passport and photo-identification card.

76. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 73 wherein the code comprises a decryption key.

77. (currently amended): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
machine-readable symbols printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate; and
electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises information stored therein,
the machine-readable symbols representing data that is machine-readable from visible light optical ~~optical~~ scan information corresponding to at least a portion of the machine-readable symbols, and
wherein the data once obtained unlocks the electronic circuitry or the information stored therein.

78. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

79. canceled.

80. canceled.

81. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the machine-readable symbols are steganographically encoded in the photographic-representation of the authorized bearer.

82. (currently amended): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the identification document comprises at least one of a driver's license or ~~and~~ photo-identification document.

83. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the substrate comprises multiple layers.

84. (previously amended): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the data is utilized as at least one of an encryption key or a decryption key.

85. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 77 wherein the symbols represent human readable information.

86. (currently amended): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
information printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate; and
electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises data stored therein,
wherein the information printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate is recognizable from visible light ~~optical~~ scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate, and
wherein at least a portion of the information once recognized unlocks the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

87. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

88. canceled.

89. canceled.

90. (currently amended): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the information printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate is steganographically encoded in the photographic-representation of the authorized bearer.

91. (currently amended): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the identification document comprises at least one of a driver's license or and photo-identification document.

92. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the substrate comprises multiple layers.

93. (currently amended): The identification document of claim 86 wherein the information printed with ink or dye carried on or in the substrate is utilized as at least one of an encryption key or a decryption key.

94. (currently amended): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
information printed with ink or dye carried on or in the substrate; and
electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises data stored therein,
wherein the information printed with ink or dye carried on or in the substrate is obtainable from visible light optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information printed with ink or dye carried on or in the substrate, and

wherein at least a portion of the information is provided for cooperation with the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein, wherein the cooperation is to unlock the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

95. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 94 wherein the at least a portion of the information - once processed - is for cooperation with the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

96. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 95 wherein the at least a portion of the information is to be processed to yield a hash, the hash being for cooperation with the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

97. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 94 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

98. canceled.

99. (currently amended): The identification document of claim 96 ~~[[97]]~~ wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

100. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 94 wherein the information carried on or in the substrate is steganographically encoded in the photographic-representation of the authorized bearer.

101. (currently amended): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
information printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate; and
electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises data stored therein,
wherein the information printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate is obtainable from visible light ~~optical~~ scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate, and
wherein at least a portion of the information once obtained is to be utilized to unlock the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

102. canceled.

103. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 101 wherein the identification document comprises a passport.

104. (currently amended): An identification document comprising:
a substrate;
a photographic-representation of an authorized bearer of the identification document carried on or in the substrate;
information printed with ink or dye ~~carried~~ on or in the substrate; and

electronic circuitry carried on or in the substrate, wherein the electronic circuitry comprises data stored therein,

wherein the information ~~printed with ink or dye carried~~ on or in the substrate is obtainable from visible light optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the information ~~printed with ink or dye carried~~ on or in the substrate, and

wherein at least a portion of the information printed with ink or dye once obtained allows access to the electronic circuitry or the data stored therein.

105. (previously presented): The identification document of claim 104 wherein the information is carried on or in the substrate with digital watermarking.

106. (currently amended): The identification document of claim 104 wherein the information is obtained from the visible light optical scan data through optical character recognition.

107. (new): A method comprising:

obtaining visible light scan data associated with text characters printed on an identification document to obtain first data; and

using at least a portion of the first data to facilitate decryption of information – not the text characters – carried on or by the identification document, wherein the information corresponds to the identification document or to an authorized bearer of the identification document.

108. (new): The method of claim 107 wherein the at least a portion of the first data is used to access a decryption key.

109. (new): The method of claim 107 wherein the information is carried by a carrier selected from a group comprising: a barcode, digital watermark, magnetic stripe, graphic and photograph.

110. (new): The method of claim 107 wherein the information is steganographically hidden on or by the identification document through alterations to data representing a photograph or graphic carried on or by the identification document.